

MONTANA RESCUE MISSION

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Gary Drake, Executive Director

P.O. Box 3232 • Billings, MT 59103-3232 • (406) 259-3800 • Fax (406) 259-4638

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 3/12/09
HB 645

March 10, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:
RE: The Community Crisis Center


Greetings:

At the men's shelter we work directly with the Community Crisis Center almost everyday. We know what they are about and how vitally important they are to provide a personal, caring link to those in our community who suffer from substance abuse, mental illness and acute crisis in their life.

Out of all the provider agencies we work with, the CCC is the most effective for care, content and immediate availability. The staff and leadership of CCC is some of the best I have seen for provider agencies in my ten plus years at the mission. To consider that they may not be adequately funded is unthinkable, in my opinion.

Funding for the CCC is funding dollars going directly to the people who need it the most, namely, those in life-crisis situations. It is an investment that could save many lives.

Sincerely,


Tracy Hansen
Men's Shelter Manager

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
2610 Montana Ave.
Billings, MT 59101-2340
(406) 252-1855 – Fax: (406) 839-9160
Website: svdpmt.org

March 10, 2009

MarCee Neary
Community Crisis Center
704 North 30th Street
Billings, MT 59101

Dear MarCee,

This letter is in support of your grant request for funding to continue the service rendered to the Billings Community by the Crisis Center. As you know, we at St. Vincent de Paul already work closely with the Crisis Center by referring people who appear unstable to the Center, many times physically taking them there. We also work with the Center by assisting those you refer to us who are in need of food, clothing, shelter or other assistance.

The Crisis Center has grown to become an important asset to those dealing with the homeless, the addicted and the mentally unstable in the Billings Community. Not only have you touched their lives in a positive way, but you have also provided a much needed service to other service providers in the Billings Community. You have become a resource for law enforcement and emergency medical personnel who are dealing with the above types of people. You have served as a triage center for the Mental Health Center and both Billings Hospitals. You have become a temporary shelter for so many others in crisis. You have educated so many of us in improving how we deal with the unstable. The loss of your services would create a void that no one in Billings is prepared to fill.

If there is anything else that I can provide in support of your funding request efforts, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Harold Merchant
Director, St. Vincent de Paul, Billings



We give a "Hand Up" not a hand out

March 6, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Executive Director of a private non-profit social service agency, I see on a daily basis individuals who have at times had no place to turn for the immediate help and care they need in their struggle. Since its inception, the Community Crisis Center in Billings, Montana has been instrumental in providing the much needed immediate assistance that we cannot and are not qualified to give. Our mission since 1906 has been Caring for People by Giving as Hand Up not a Hand Out, and there is no better way to care for people than to direct them to professionals who are qualified. By necessity, Family Service, Inc. has several times in the past had to refer our clients to the Community Crisis Center.

I also am the Chairman of the City of Billings Mayors Committee on Homelessness and a very large percentage of the homeless in any community are subject to mental crisis at any given time. In the committee's efforts to assist the homeless, the Community Crisis Center has proved to be an invaluable asset for the homeless and the community as a whole.

I unabashedly support the Billings Community Crisis Center and support their efforts and endeavors of securing funding via the grant application process. Billings, Montana needs the Community Crisis Center.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Chinberg
Executive Director
Family Service, Inc.

Over a Hundred Years of Caring

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